

Whittier - Newly elected Congresswoman Linda Sánchez (CA -39th) immediately went to work for her constituents, and today announced that she has secured \$300,000 for the Whittier Public Library. The funding is part of the FY 2003 Omnibus Appropriations Bill, H.J. Res. 2, that passed the U.S House of Representatives on February 13th by a vote of 338 to 83.

Congresswoman Sánchez aggressively worked to get the Whittier Public Library included in the FY 2003 Omnibus Appropriations bill. She also successfully included \$200,000 for the Gateway Cities Partnership project in the City of Paramount, and .2 million for improvements to Artesia Blvd in the City of Artesia.

"I am committed to working for California families and will do everything possible to secure funding for our communities. I met with local leaders in Whittier to discuss the needs of residents, and I am delighted today to deliver the money they requested," said Congresswoman Linda Sánchez.

The funding will be used to open a "Learning Village" with a fully functional state-of-the-art homework center for grades K-12, and a family literacy program to address the needs of families in Whittier and the surrounding area. The Learning Village will include 10 computer workstations, 4 laptops, Internet access, and new printers.

At present, the Children's Department of the Central Library has a limited homework center consisting of five computers with Internet access and a very limited amount of software for students to use. The computers are always in use with a long waiting list of students. Additionally, there is no funding for library employees to staff the homework center.

"I am thrilled to bring this funding to the Whittier Public Library. The Learning Village will provide Whittier area children and families with access to knowledgeable staff, tutors, technology, and computer training. It is critical that we provide our children with the tools and resources they need to get a quality education," said Congresswoman Linda Sánchez.

Whittier area students will be well-served by the new facility. The homework center will serve students from two elementary schools districts, one unified high school district, and several private elementary and high schools. The total student population serviced by the Whittier Public Library is approximately 42,881.